Holbrook Island lies in eastern Penobscot Bay about .4 miles from the mainland part of Holbrook Island Sanctuary. Bordered by rocky ledges, sandy beaches and mud flats, the mile long island includes about 115 acres of woods and fields. Seeing the forested parts of the island, a visitor might not guess the island's long human history.

According to Anita Harris, the island's last private owner, Holbrook Island was settled just after the Revolutionary War by Capt. Jesse Holbrook of Truro, Massachusetts. For years, his island provided the tall pines for the sailing ships built in nearby Castine. The next owner reportedly kept his mistress on the island, and their daughter tended to sheep there most of her life. In 1891, Edward Kelleran Harris bought the island from her for \$500, cleared more fields for a farm, and built a summer home for his family. His daughter Anita, the last member of his family, lived on the island until her death in 1985.

A great lover of nature, and of animals in particular, Anita Harris willed her island to the State of Maine on condition that it be maintained "as a wildlife and natural area....devoted wholly to the preservation of nature".

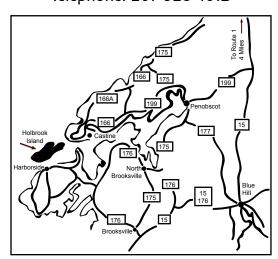
In keeping with her wishes, most of the buildings have been removed to allow the island to return to a natural state. To further protect the island, Miss Harris' will forbids picnic facilities, motorized vehicles, commercial ventures, road construction, hunting, fishing, and trapping. Within these constraints, the Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands, provides for appropriate, low-impact use of the island.

"I have struggled to preserve for the future a piece of the unspoiled Maine that I used to know", Miss Harris said in a 1966 interview. We support this goal and request your cooperation.



Photo courtesy © Gary Lackie www.alaskafreezeframe.com

PO Box 35 Brooksville, Maine 04617 Telephone: 207-326-4012



Holbrook Island

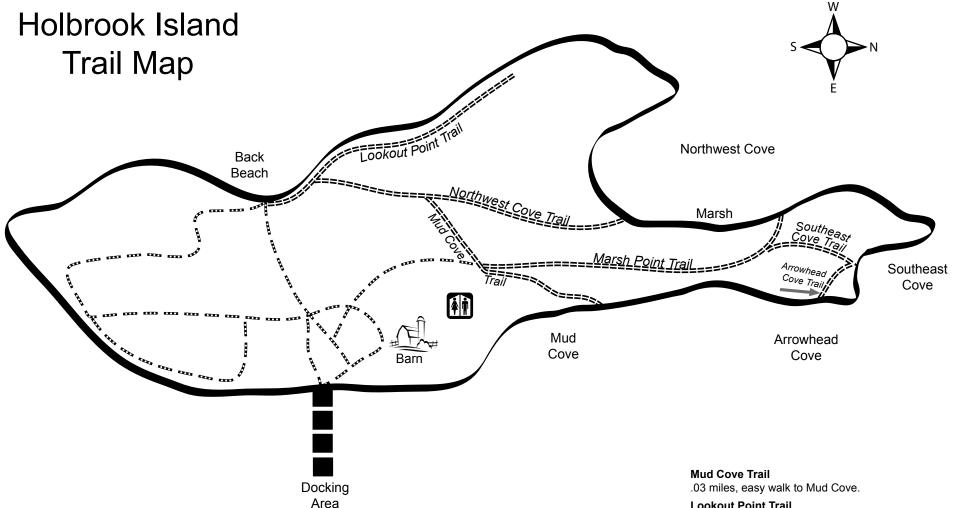


"A unique coastal treasure"



Maine Department of Conservation
Bureau of Parks and Lands
106 Hogan Road, Bangor, Maine 04401
Telephone: 207-941-4014 ◆ Fax: 207-941-4222





>>======= Formal trails

Seasonal trails

Restroom

Please observe the posted rules.

Park hours are from 9:00am until sunset.

Camping is not permitted anywhere in the park or on the Island.

Dogs must be leashed at all times, and are not allowed on the beaches.

Open fires are not permitted on the Island or the beaches.

Charcoal cookers and Coleman stoves are permitted on the beaches.

No fees are charged, however, there is a donation can by the floats;

the proceeds are used for the upkeep and maintenance of the Park and Island.

There is one free visitor mooring near the docks on the Island, please share.

There are two free visitor moorings in Tom Cod Cove on the mainland, please share.

Lookout Point Trail

.24 miles, easy walk to Lookout Point along the shoreline.

Northwest Cove Trail

.34 miles through the forest.

Good bird watching and wildlife sighting.

Marsh Point Trail

.25 miles, leads to Southeast Cove Trail and Arrowhead Beach Trails. Easy walk, good bird watching and wildlife trail.

Southeast Cove Trail

.05 miles. Leads to nice small beach and lookout to the thoroughfare between Nautilus and Holbrook Island.

Arrowhead Beach Trail

.02 miles. Leads to a shale and flint area where (legend has it) the Indians found materials for their arrowheads.